The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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UNIONISTS TO IGNORE "CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW

Boulder, Col., Aug. 25.—A flag of defiance was raised against Colorado's "can't-strike" law by the convention of the state federation of labor, which called on affiliates to ignore the state industrial relations commission. This law is similar to the industrial disputes act of Canada, except that it applies to all classes of workers, who are prohibited from striking before they submit their grievance to the commission and for 30 days thereafter.

This denial of the right to quit their employment has been bitterly contested by Colorado organized workers and in Denver many unions make no pretense of obeying this section, which is referred to as "involuntary servitude." This viewpoint was accepted by the state convention, which adopted the following:

"Whereas, The industrial relations commission of Colorado abridges the constitutional rights guaranteed by the constitution of the United States; and

"Whereas, No one knows better than the commission itself that there is no court which would uphold the law; and

"Whereas, We believe the people directly connected in labor disputes are better able to handle the affairs of their particular crafts than is a commission which may have no knowledge whatever of the matter they would pass upon; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the Colorado state federation of labor encourage all local unions to absolutely ignore the industrial relations commission of Colorado in the settlement of their business affairs."

STREET CAR MEN WIN.

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 25.—The local street car company has failed in its attempt to disrupt the Street Car Men's union and after a nine-days' strike 2,000 employes are again at work. Union committees are recognized, arbitration machinery secured and all strikers are reinstated. Wages will be considered later.

When the company was asking for a franchise, a few years ago, it accepted a provision guaranteeing the right of organization to employes. The repudiation of this agreement, which was the main cause of the strike, was referred to as follows by the Kansas City Star:

"The company has placed its own self at a complete disadvantage in its contention over the right of its employes to organize, by guaranteeing them that right in the franchise. It was inserted to catch the labor vote—but it is there, and the company cannot expect to evade its contract to furnish street car service to Kansas City in order to break its own agreement with the men."

Lima, O., Aug. 25.—The local street car strike has ended by the company granting the minimum wage of 30 and 35 cents an hour asked by the men.

URGE COAL CONTROL.

Chicago, Aug. 25.—At a conference held in this city representatives of councils of defense of 13 middle western states adopted resolutions urging immediate action by the federal government in fixing a reasonable price for coal and regulating the distribution of fuel by the railroads. A copy of the resolutions was telegraphed to President Wilson. The conference adjourned to meet later when the representatives of the different states will report data to be gathered on the cost of coal production at various mines.

In the resolutions adopted by the conference, it was declared that:

"There is an urgent necessity for a complete reorganization of the methods and machinery of transportation, the dispatch of coal from the mines to the nearest market by the shortest route, the avoidance of the shipping of coal into coal producing states, the abuse of reconsignment privileges, delays in unloading—these and other practices which interfere with the production and dispatch in handling of coal should be at once corrected. We urge that the mine gateways of Lake Erie be utilized to the fullest extent. At present only two are so used."

A "REMARKABLE" STRIKE.

Denver, Aug. 25.—In reviewing the recent higher-wage strike of Leadville miners, a correspondent to a local newspaper solemnly avers that this movement was "remarkable" because no riots were started or no property destroyed. The writer, however, can see no connection with this condition and the absence of strike guards or deputy sheriffs, although the operators hinted at the time that the strikers were subsidized by the German government, acting through a so-called "revolutionary" union.

The operators insisted that they could not afford to raise wages, but now it is shown that the Yak Mining, Tunnel and Transportation company places its ore on the cars at 50 cents a ton, which covers the cost. At the smelter, silver to the value of $1.50 is extracted from each ton of ore.

VALUE OF EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Tacoma, Wash., Aug. 25.—"All advancement is a process of education," says the Tacoma Daily News in an editorial on the value of the eight-hour day.

"How much of the increasing intelligence of the people is due to the shorter working day? If a man is overworked all his life he is quite likely to be a chump. Give him time for recreation and reading and he is almost sure to become a useful and progressive citizen. Note the difference between the men in crafts with fair working hours and laborers who expend all their physical and mental energy at hard work through long hours."

WANT LABOR LAW CHANGED.

Boston, Aug. 25.—Cigar Makers' union No. 97 is urging Massachusetts trade unionists to support an amendment to the state workmen's compensation law which will include occupational diseases. The cigar makers call attention to a recent decision by the state supreme court which excludes occupational diseases. Much publicity is necessary to offset the lobby of the private insurance companies, it is urged.

BREWERY WORKERS GAIN.

Tacoma, Wash., Aug. 25.—The Pacific bottling works has signed the wage contract of the Brewery Workers' union, and every Tacoma concern in this industry is now operated on a union-shop basis.

CIGAR MAKERS GAIN.

Peoria, Ill., Aug. 25.—Cigar manufacturers have accepted the new wage scale of Cigar Makers' union. Wages are advanced $1 a week, making the minimum $17.50.

BUSINESS MAN SCORES PAWNBROKER PATRIOTS

San Francisco, Aug. 25.—In a speech before one of the trade divisions of the chamber of commerce, John Francis Neylan, associated with Herbert C. Hoover in the national food administration, declared that "pawnbroker patriots" are coining millions from the needs and miseries of the nation.

The speaker predicted that within six months the entire life of the United States will undergo a change and that "that change is going to be more radical than anything in our history.

"The essential change," he said, "is going to come in our industrial life, and all other rearrangements are going to depend upon the degree of foresight, understanding and justice with which this change is made. Every other nation involved in this war has faced the same problem.

"The time has passed when workmen can be driven to a task at the point of a bayonet. Civilization has advanced and the worker has established his right to a voice in the shaping of the policies of industry and of the nation.

"In Washington, New York, Chicago and San Francisco, within the last 30 days, I have heard men rail at labor for demanding higher wages, and a thought has occurred to me. I have wondered which was the greater crime, for a workingman who is fighting for merely enough to live on and support his family to strike for higher wages, or for the president of the United States steel corporation to go to Washington and arrogantly demand of the United States government $90 a ton for steel which it costs less than $40 to manufacture. If the German kaiser is behind the workmen's strike, who is behind the steel corporation?

"The recruiting of the ranks of the I. W. W. from among peaceful and law-abiding workingmen is a mighty dangerous symptom. The vicious doctrine of this organization only falls upon fruitful soil when it is spread among workingmen rendered desperate in the fight for existence by seeing the necessities of life soaring to unprecedented prices while millions are being coined by 'pawnbroker patriots' from the needs and miseries of the nation."

NEW CHILD LABOR LAW.

Washington, Aug. 25.—The new federal child labor law will be effective September 1. Those who would ship goods made by children in interstate trade must comply with the following requirements:

Children under 16 years of age prohibited from working in mines or quarries.

Children under 14 years of age prohibited from working in mills, canneries, factories, etc.

Children between 16 and 17 years of age, employed in mines or quarries, must present federal or state certificates.

Children between 14 and 16 years of age, employed in mills, canneries, factories, etc., must present federal or state certificates.

Children engaged under permit are not permitted to work more than eight hours in one day, or six days in any week or after 7 p. m. or before 6 a. m.

Federal inspectors must be allowed to enter mines, workshops, etc., for inspection of plants and records.

Penalty for violation of the law is a fine of not exceeding $200 for each offense prior to the first conviction and a fine of not more than $1,000 nor less than $100 or imprisonment for not more than three months for each offense subsequent to first conviction.

STRIKE GUARDS RUN WILD.

Charleston, W. Va., Aug. 25.—President Keeney of district No. 17, United Mine Workers, has wired Washington officials that unless miners are given immediate relief from the despotic action of the coal company and hired gun men at Bower a state-wide strike of miners will be called. It is declared that a continuance of the gun men means another Cabin Creek and Paint Creek episode of a few years ago, which was denounced by a committee appointed by the United States senate.

Miners at Bower are on strike to improve conditions and the West Virginia Federationist declares that the brazenness of the coal company "surpasses anything before attempted and reflects a depravity never suspected."

The company has invoked the vagrancy act, passed by the last legislature to round up idlers because of the war. When this failed it began eviction proceedings against those miners on strike who live in company houses. The miners didn't move fast enough and a posse of company thugs tore the roofs from the cabins and left women and children exposed to the elements.

PRINTERS ARE PATRIOTIC.

Colorado Springs, Col., Aug. 25.—The sixty-third annual convention of the International Typographical union will take care of the union dues of members who join the army and navy, the necessary fund to be raised by a per capita tax of 10 cents a month. This will protect enlisted printer unionists in their mortuary and old age benefits and their right to admission to the union printers' home. President Wilson's war policy was indorsed. The convention favored increased salaries for officers.

All constitutional changes will be submitted to the referendum.

A feature of the convention was the silver jubilee celebration of the union printers' home, located here.

Scranton was selected as the next convention city.

REFUSE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Seattle, Aug. 25.—Lumber manufacturers of western Washington, meeting in this city to consider the request of Secretary of War Baker that the eight-hour day be granted to their striking lumber workers, decided that they could not grant the request without bringing disaster to the industry. The lumber barons advance the same excuses that have been exploded times without number.

MINERS' STRIKE AVERTED.

Steamboat Springs, Col., Aug. 25.—A threatened strike of 250 men employed by the Colorado-Utah Fuel company was averted when the company increased wages and granted the demand of their employes regarding the check weight system. The later concession guarantees the miners a voice in the weighing of their product.

TRACK WALKERS STRIKE.

Baltimore, Aug. 25.—Track walkers and road laborers on the Columbia and Port Deposit branch of the Pennsylvania railroad suspended work to enforce a 5 cent an hour increase.

Soldiers' Pension System Is Rejected For Definite Compensation Plan

Washington, Aug. 25.—At a public hearing before the house committee on foreign and interstate commerce, last week, life insurance representatives and politicians led the opposition to the bill providing for family allowances, compensation, education and insurance of America's soldiers and sailors.

Under this legislation all former pension plans are rejected and the principle of workmen's compensation, with its fixed sums, replaces the old plan of a pittance doled out to the soldier by legislative enactment after suffering by himself and family.

Politicians oppose the plan on the ground that it will destroy this country's present soldiers' pension system, which has been used on more than one occasion for vote-getting purposes.

Private insurance companies oppose the plan on the ground that the government is "interfering with their business." Some friends of the legislation suggest that the fact that soldiers can be insured for $8 per $1,000 up to $10,000 might assist the companies in forming a judgment.

The bill was prepared by a committee appointed by Samuel Gompers, chairman of the committee on labor, council of national defense. Hon. Julian W. Mack, federal circuit judge, Illinois district, was made chairman of this sub-committee, which called to its assistance the finest brains the government could secure and which will result in the government embarking in an unheard of insurance business.

Under present laws a private in the United States army gets $33 a month for service abroad. If he has a wife and two children he must allot to them at least $15 a month. The government supplements this under the proposed law by giving the family an allowance of $32.50, which makes its income $47.50 a month. The father can allot as much more as he pleases. If there is another child the government will allow $5 additional. If the man has a dependent father or mother, or more children, the government makes additional allowances up to $50 a month over and above the man's own allotment.

If total disability results, a private's dependents are awarded from $40 to $75 a month, according to the size of the family. Partial disabilities are also compensated, with medical, surgical and hospital treatment, supplies and appliances given without cost.

Provision is made for the soldier to insure his life in amounts from $1,000 to $10,000 at a cost of $8 per $1,000, the government to bear all expenses of administration. After the war this insurance may be converted into other forms with earlier maturity without extra cost. For those who are totally disabled or die before they have had an opportunity to insure within the prescribed period of 120 days, insurance in the sum of $5,000 is deemed to have been applied for and granted.

The bill includes the re-education of injured men for a life of activity and usefulness either in their former or some other vocation.

It is estimated that the first year's cost for this plan will be $176,150,000 and the second year's cost, $380,000,000. In defending the plan against the charge that the cost is excessive, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo says, in a statement to the president:

"At this time we are contemplating expenditures during the fiscal year 1918 of more than $19,000,000,000 for the prosecution of the war—for the creation of armies and death-dealing instruments to be used in destroying enough human life to restore peace and justice in the world. Shall we hesitate to expend $700,000,000 more per annum, if need be—only about 5 per cent of the amount we propose to expend for purposes of war—for the protection of the widows and orphans, the dependent and the injured, who, after all, make the greatest sacrifices of any part of our people, for the safety, security, and honor of our country?

"Furthermore, it must be borne in mind that the government will not escape those expenditures if this plan of compensation and insurance should be rejected, because the pension system would then be resorted to, and the cost would likely exceed that of the proposed plan."

"We are drafting men and compelling them to make, if necessary, the supreme sacrifice for their country," continues Secretary McAdoo. "A higher obligation therefore rests upon the government to mitigate the horrors of war for the fighting men and their dependents in so far as it is possible to do so through compensations, indemnities, and insurance. Less than this, a just, generous, and humane government can not do. We must set an example to the world, not alone in the ideals for which we fight, but in the treatment we accord to those who fight and sacrifice for us."

U. S. COURT UPHOLDS DRAFT.

Mount Airy, Ga., Aug. 25.—Judge Speer of the United States district court has upheld the draft law and has refused the plea of two arrested men that the law violates the constitutional guarantee against involuntary servitude.

The court declared that to agree to the contention that the draft law contravenes the thirteenth amendment to the federal constitution would be to consider that the soldier is a slave.

"Nothing could be more abhorrent to the truth," said the court.

Answering the contention of the petitioners that by the common law it was their right to "remain within the realm" and that this right should be held to relieve them from military service beyond the borders of the United States, Judge Speer said the common law could not prevail against the explicit provisions of an act of congress, which was empowered by the constitution to raise and support armies. He declared that this power was not restricted in any manner, and that congress may summon to its army every citizen of the United States.

Admitting that no express power was given to send armies beyond the sea, he said that there was no express power to enact the criminal laws of the United States, building of the Panama canal or to the purchase of Alaska.

"This has all been done," he said, "under the great power to promote the general welfare, just as the selective army will be created under the law here assailed 'to provide for the common defense.'"

TO COMBAT PACIFISTS.

New York, Aug. 25.—In an address "to the organized working people of America and their forward-looking friends," the American alliance for labor and democracy has issued a call for a conference at Minneapolis, beginning September 5. This organization was recently formed by President Gompers and other trade unionists and sympathizers to offset present-day pacifist suggestions among organized workers by the people's council and its allied workmen's council.

The meeting will be almost concurrent with a national pacifist meeting to be held by the people's council in Minneapolis beginning September 1.

The signers of the alliance call include James P. Holland, president New York state federation of labor; Ernest Bohm, secretary of the New York central federated union; J. G. P. Stokes, Rose Pastor Stokes, John Spargo, Charles Edward Russell and Chester M. Wright.

It is stated that the war has now resolved itself into a contest between democracy and autocracy, regardless of what may have been the cause at the outset.

OBJECT TO STRIKE GUARDS.

Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 25.—Armed strike guards are being imported into this district by coal operators since miners have demanded improved conditions. In the Edgewater mine of the Tennessee company, a strong stockade has been erected and the guards have taken complete charge of affairs. The Labor Advocate says negroes were brought to this mine under the impression that they were to be employed elsewhere. They were then told they must mine coal or go hungry. The Labor Advocate insists that there is no need for guards and that the sheriff should jail these thugs for their unwarranted assumption of authority and for carrying concealed weapons.

APPOINTS CONCILIATORS.

Salem, Ore., Aug. 25.—A state mediation and conciliation board, consisting of five representatives of employers and an equal number of employed, has been appointed by Governor Withycombe. It was originally intended to appoint the state's chief justice as the odd member, but this was eliminated at the request of trade unionists, who assured the governor they have no objection to the present chief justice but that men holding this position in the future might not be without prejudice to organized labor.

BARBERS RAISE WAGES.

Denver, Aug. 25.—The Barbers' union is establishing its new wage scale of $18 a week and 60 per cent over $30, holiday closing and 10 o'clock closing on Saturday nights. Former rates were $15 and 60 per cent over $25. The no-work holidays are Decoration day, Fourth of July, Labor day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

UNION SHOP FOR PACKERS.

Peoria, Ill., Aug. 25.—Butcher Workmen's union has secured a union-shop agreement with the several packing plants in this city. Wage increases range from 10 to 15 per cent. The agreement will run for six months and benefits over 300 workers.

AVERT SHIP YARD STRIKE.

Quincy, Mass., Aug. 25.—The Fore River ship building corporation has averted a general strike by agreeing to pay prevailing rates, time and one-half for overtime and double time for Sunday and holiday work.

STANDARD OIL'S PROFITS.

Cleveland, Aug. 25.—The Standard oil company of Ohio has declared a regular quarterly dividend of $3 a share and an extra dividend of $1 a share.

NAVY LEAGUE BARRED.

Washington, Aug. 25.—Secretary of the Navy Daniels has followed up his request that Colonel Thompson and other officials of the Navy league resign their offices, by giving public notice that no representative of the league shall hereafter be admitted to any naval station or ship and that nothing whatever shall be accepted by the navy from the league, as at present officered and managed.

Thousands of women throughout the country are knitting sweaters, wristlets and other articles for sailors under the auspices of the Navy league, but the secretary's action means that these will not be accepted unless tendered through some agency other than the present officers of the league.

The league has no official connection with the navy. It is a civilian organization formed several years ago to work for the enlargement of the navy. The present controversy arose over the league's public statement that the investigation of the explosion at the Mare island (California) navy yard, last July, has been held up by orders from navy officials, "acting under influences exerted by powerful labor interests."

Secretary of the Navy Daniels answered this charge "as too contemptible of notice" and called on the officers to resign, quoting a letter from the league's executive, Colonel Thompson, that resignations would be forthcoming any time the affairs of the league were not conducted to the satisfaction of the navy department.

The request to resign was answered by Colonel Thompson with what he termed "a sporting proposition" to the secretary of the navy—that they both resign. The debarrment order followed.

CAN'T OPERATE MILLS.

Olympia, Wash., Aug. 25.—Mill owners in western Washington are whistling to keep up courage in their fight against the eight-hour demand of employes. This movement is a strict trade union affair, and was caused by the refusal of the mill barons to agree to sanitary working conditions or discuss the shorter workday. The mill owners have rejected every peace suggestion. Their failure to operate is shown in a report on Tacoma conditions to the state labor commissioner, which shows that seven mills are entirely closed, two are running eight hours on full crews, one is running 10 hours on a bonus plan, another is operating nine hours and the last is attempting to operate 10 hours with about half a crew.

This last mill is the St. Paul and Tacoma Lumber company's and in its half crew is included officers and foremen.

A SUSPICIOUS MOVE.

Springfield, Mo., Aug. 25.—The Springfield Laborer says word has gone out that no member of organized labor will be asked or accepted as a member of the home guard now being formed under the supervision of the defense council of this county.

The editor expresses the belief that the governor of this state will not tolerate any "home" guard organization conducted along these lines.

"The exclusion of organized labor from the ranks of the guard," it is stated, "can mean only one thing, and that is that some overt act is being contemplated to destroy the present labor standards in Springfield."

EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN.

Washington, Aug. 25.—Members of the National American Woman's Suffrage association has started a campaign to protect women against war profiteers.

In urging organized action the national suffrage executives say:

"Women workers unorganized are unwittingly one of the most serious dangers to the standards of industry the world over. Let us, as suffragists, make organized demand for those equal economic rights which will enable us to remove this danger to our country's welfare."

MUSICIANS ADVANCE.

Toronto, Ontario, Canada, Aug. 25.—Organized musicians employed in the theatres of this city have established a new wage scale, which raises rates $3 a week.

Pittsburg, Pa., Aug. 25.—Musicians' union No. 60 has secured a 12 per cent wage increase in 10 of the largest theaters in this city.

UPHOLSTERERS WANT MORE.

Philadelphia, Aug. 25.—Upholsterers' union No. 124 has prepared a new agreement which includes: Wage increase of 50 cents for a day of eight hours; creation of arbitration machinery, and double time for Sundays and holidays.

WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES.

Baltimore, Aug. 25.—Practically every electrical contractor in this city has accepted the new wage scale of Electrical Workers' union No. 28. Beginning November 1, wages will be $5 a day.

WILL PROTECT CHILDREN.

Denver, Aug. 25.—State Labor Commissioner Morrissey opposes efforts of sugar beet men in the northern part of the state to have the Colorado child labor law suspended during the war.

GREETINGS FROM CUBA.

Washington, Aug. 25.—The Pan-American federation of labor conference committee, Samuel Gompers, chairman, received the Cuban fraternal delegate, Antonio Correa Gonzales, who is also secretary of the Havana Retail Clerks' union. Mr. Gonzales carried greetings and credentials from a score of other Cuban unions who have delegated him to represent them on the Pan-American federation of labor conference committee, with headquarters in the A. F. of L. building.

The Cuban trade unionist reported much progress in the Cuban labor movement during the last year. Many trades have won the eight-hour day, advanced wages and improved working conditions. Cuba has one federated labor movement and Gonzales is under instructions to study the North American labor movement and report to Cuba in particular and Latin America in general.

The credential of Edmundo E. Martinez, representing the federated workers' syndicates of Mexico, was also presented and this Mexican union executive was made a member of the Pan-American federation of labor conference committee, which is uniting the organized workers of North America and South America.

It was stated that the fraternal delegate from Chili—Gardenio Gonzales, a machinist—would arrive in Washington in the near future.

Secretary John Murray reported that the Arizona state federation of labor, at its recent convention, elected a committee to meet representatives of the Sonora (Mexico) workingmen's congress.

THOUSANDS IDLE IN OHIO.

Cincinnati, Aug. 25.—The Cincinnati Enquirer prints the following special dispatch from Columbus:

"Thousands are idle in Ohio today. "Labor experts with the Ohio branch, council of national defense, are authority for this statement.

"This despite the tremendous demand for production and labor that goes with the war.

"'Back of this condition lies the failure of jobless workers to connect with employers who need men,' said Fred C. Croxton, chairman of the committee on labor and industrial relations, Ohio defense council.

"'The state, through its 21 state free labor exchanges, offers the solution to this problem.

"'The man who can and wants to work can find a job by applying to his nearest state free labor exchange.

"'The employer who wants men, whether one or 1,000, can get them, in all likelihood, by using the same clearing house.'"

CANADIAN PRESS IS UNION.

Chicago, Aug. 25.—President Konenkamp of the Commercial Telegraphers' union reports that the Canadian press, a news gathering agency, has signed a union-shop agreement, which includes its coast-to-coast jurisdiction. The new schedule establishes the highest average wage paid by any press association in North America. The Canadian press will inaugurate its service next month, and is the result of an amalgamation of several press associations.

Officers of the new company said they did not care to start business on any other than a union basis because of past experiences, and they recognized that the Commercial Telegraphers' union is here to stay.

FIRST OIL STRIKE WON.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Aug. 25.—The first strike of oil field workers in Oklahoma was won when the Sinclair Oil and Gas company granted the demands of 300 employes. Wages are raised 15 per cent, except cleaners, who will be paid $150 a month.

McDonald, Pa., Aug. 25.—The South Penn Oil company discharged four employes because they discussed wage increases with their fellows. The company's action was followed by a strike of 200 employes.

MUST RECOGNIZE UNIONS.

Olympia, Wash., Aug. 25.—In a speech in this city, H. L. Hughes, a state official, declared that industrial peace can only be secured by employers conceding the right to workers to organize and then to settle differences by conference. He predicted that the lumber barons in this section would have to recognize these principles.

10 TO 40 PER CENT GAIN.

Boston, Aug. 25. — The Artificial Stone Makers' union, affiliated with the A. F. of L., has raised rates from 10 to 40 per cent. This is the first time a standard wage in this industry has been secured in Boston.

CARPENTERS WANT MORE.

Temple, Tex., Aug. 25.—Carpenters' union has prepared a new wage agreement to take effect November 1. Rates are advanced from $4 a day to $4.50, until May 1, of next year, when $5 will be the minimum rate.

PLUMBERS RAISE WAGES.

Augusta, Ga., Aug. 25.—Negotiations between Plumbers' union and employers have resulted in wage increases of nearly 15 per cent, or a minimum of $4.50 a day.

RAISE WAGES $5 A MONTH.

Cincinnati, Aug. 25.—Organized maintenance-of-way employes on the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad have raised wages $5 a month, the second advance this year.

MINERS MAKE RECORD.

Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 25.—In his labor day message President White of the United Mine Workers gives this practical illustration of collective bargaining when the country is at war:

"In the anthracite coal fields, where recognition of the union was gained in 1916 and the eight-hour day substituted for the nine, with a shortage of upwards of 20,000 miners who have gone to the munition plants, to subway work in New York, and others called to the colors, coal production increased 6,000,000 tons for the first seven months of the year. In the organized industries, where employer and employe are possessed of each other's confidence, like increases of production have resulted.

"No matter how difficult it may seem or exacting the task, labor must strive to preserve intact during the war the principles of collective bargaining. When the curtain falls on the world's most deplorable slaughter in history, when the sound of shot and shell shall be heard no more, and reconstruction begins to rehabilitate the shattered areas of the world to a normal state, let it be said of organized labor that every measure of industrial democracy enjoyed when we started out to make the 'world safe for democracy' has been maintained.

"There is no sound reason for pessimism in the ranks of labor, if we are awake to opportunities."

WHY WRECKS HAPPEN.

New Haven, Conn., Aug. 25.—The death of 19 persons in a trolley wreck at North Branford recently was necessary to force this interurban line to protect human life. The need for safety devices is shown by the following orders of the interstate commerce commission:

Install automatic block devices to replace the telephone system of operating switches; equip the system with safety devices used by high-speed systems, and issue a regular time table for use of employes and passengers; train dispatchers' orders must be written.

The slip-shod manner in which this interurban line was conducted is shown by the testimony of a division superintendent, who was discharged at the time of the wreck. He said the company has no written time tables and the schedules were told "hit or miss" to the train crews.

ACTIVE IN TRENTON.

Trenton, N. J., Aug. 25.—Unorganized bobbin winders at the Princeton Worsted company raised wages from $8.25 a week to $9.25, with the assistance of A. F. of L. Organizer Travers. This unionist also assisted automobile tire builders at the Empire rubber mill, who went on strike for shop conditions and to have six men reinstated. Officers of the company assumed a lofty attitude and refused to discuss matters, because "the men were discharged." Later Travers was sent for and negotiations were opened on a sane basis. An agreement was reached and the strikers secured an eight-hour day and the reinstatement of their victimized fellows. The union secured 175 applications as a result.

Tire makers in the Ajax plant have raised wages 60 cents a day.

STATE UNIONISTS CONFER.

Salisbury, N. C., Aug. 25.—At the convention of the state federation of labor, free text book and workmen's compensation acts are included in a long list of remedial legislation which North Carolina trade unionists will urge at the next session of the state legislature. W. E. Shuping, Salisbury, was elected president, and W. E. Meadows, Asheville, secretary. Next year's convention will be held in Asheville.

STREET CAR MEN STRIKE.

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 25.—After repeated failures to induce the Georgia Railway and Power company to adjust grievances, motormen and conductors employed by this concern are again on strike. These workers are members of Street Car Men's union. They are compelled to be on duty 13 hours for 10 hours' pay. In reply to the union's appeal to arbitrate differences the company replied, "There wasn't any answer" and "No reply."

COAL OUTPUT INCREASES.

Belleville, Ill., Aug. 25.—The annual report of the county mine inspector shows that for the fiscal year ending June 30, St. Clair county mines produced 5,758,156 tons of coal, an increase of 2,461,947 tons, or 57 per cent over the preceding year.

WANT 20 PER CENT RAISE.

Cincinnati, Aug. 25.—Garment Workers' union No. 188 is preparing a new wage agreement which includes a 20 per cent increase and full pay for holidays. The present contract expires September 1.

RAISE CANNERS' WAGES.

San Francisco, Aug. 25.—Canning corporations have accepted the recommendations of the mediation committee appointed after the recent canners' strike. Wages are increased.

HOD CARRIERS STRIKE.

Cincinnati, Aug. 25.—Members of Hod Carriers' union No. 113 have suspended work to enforce a wage increase of 10 cents an hour. These workers average $12 a week.

THINKING CITIZENS UPHOLD GOVERNOR

Fargo, N. D., Aug. 25.—The Non-Partisan Leader, official magazine of the farmers' Non-Partisan league, is in hearty accord with Governor Frazier's proclamation to peace officers that they must check "law and order" mobs or be removed from office.

"The proclamation expresses the views on labor troubles held by every thoughtful citizen who is not swayed by prejudice or unreasoning bitterness," says this paper.

"Any person burning or attempting to burn crops, destroy harvesting machinery or commit disorderly acts of any kind against employers of labor will be attended to under the law, the governor says.

"On the other hand, the governor says that any attempts by peace officers to violate the law on the other side, will likewise be suppressed. Laborers are not to be clubbed and driven out of the community because they ask wages higher than peace officers may think justified: they are not to be mobbed because they assemble peacefully to hold meetings, or because they are 'broke.'

"In other words, the governor knows that labor riots, lynchings and other disgraceful proceedings are usually the result of enforcing the law against one side of the controversy and failing or refusing to enforce it against the other. We have laws to take care of persons attempting to destroy property and it should be enforced vigorously against them, says the governor. But it is not for peace officers, or mobs or 'vigilance' societies to take the law into their hands. When they do, they can not blame the laborer who thinks he has a grievance, when he takes the law into his hands. We do not want civil war in the United States, now of all times."

DEATH RATE TOO LARGE.

San Francisco, Aug. 25.—There are more than 600,000 preventable deaths in the United States every year and there are 1,500,000 people lying on sick beds in this country who should be engaged in useful occupations.

Such are the declarations made in the last issue of the Journal of Agriculture, published by students of the University of California, by Prof. Irving Fisher, of Yale university.

"Human life is needlessly shortened in the United States," writes the eastern educator. "Preventable diseases, even when not fatal, cripple the power to work and mar the joy of living. I venture the opinion that the average man or woman in the United States is not doing half of the work nor having half of the joy of work of which the human being is capable.

"While there is now a decreased loss of life from infection by the germ diseases, there is an increased loss of life after middle age from the degenerative diseases, such as hardening of the arteries or Bright's disease."

Neglect of elemental sanitation is declared to be the chief cause of this condition.

BREAD PRICE TOO HIGH.

Sacramento, Cal., Aug. 25.—"The baker gets the public in California now, both coming and going," according to Charles G. Johnson, state superintendent of weights and measures, who made the statement in a letter to Herbert C. Hoover, food administrator, in which Johnson urged that a standard weight for bread should be fixed and rigidly enforced.

"During May, 1917, the market value of flour was $17.50 per barrel and bread was selling at 7 1-2 cents for approximately 16 ounces," said Johnson in the letter.

"Today, with flour at $12.90 per barrel, the selling price of bread is the same and the loaf smaller."

A standard weight for bread would safeguard the public against larceny in quantity and protect the consumer against the use of ingredients calculated by the manufacturer to make the loaf appear larger, according to Johnson.

STRIKEBREAKERS STRIKE.

Wilmington, Del., Aug. 25.—Strikebreakers employed by the Hartmann and Fehrenbach Brewing company suspended work to enforce a demand for higher wages. This concern joined with other breweries, two years ago, in an attempt to smash the Brewery Workers' union, and the strike is still on.

Local unionists are deploring the discontent of the strikebreakers, who are urged by the organized workers to remain true to the traditions of "free and independent" workers and be grateful for anything the employer hands them.

STRIKERS REDUCE HOURS.

Joppa, Ill., Aug. 25.—Striking employes of the Indiana Tie company have secured a one year union-shop agreement and will work two hours less a day with no reduction in pay. These employes are affiliated with the A. F. of L. Paul J. Smith, A. F. of L. organizer, who assisted in the peace negotiations, says that the strike was one of the most determined he has seen in a long time. The workers have agreed to attempt to organize near-by plants and place them on the same working basis as the Joppa concern.

SHOULD DRAFT WEALTH.

Philadelphia, Aug. 25.—In a speech bristling with denunciation of German autocracy, former Governor Walsh of Massachusetts made this declaration in favor of wealth conscription:

"All the wealth of a Morgan or a Rockefeller is not worth one young American's life, and I say that this crisis demands the right to draft the wealth of the country as well as its young manhood."

WON'T ENJOIN PICKETING.

Philadelphia, Aug. 25.—Organized textile workers have won a court victory over the firm of C. H. Masland & Son, which has been denied an injunction against picketing. This firm is the only weaving plant in Philadelphia that has refused to accept a new wage contract which raises rates 12½ per cent.

PREDICT CHEAP POTATOES.

Washington, Aug. 25.—The department of agriculture predicts that the price of potatoes will drop because of this year's increased yield, which is estimated at more than 467,000,000 bushels, as compared with 285,000,000 bushels in 1916 and 360,000,000 bushels in 1915.

SHOPS CLOSE EARLIER.

Tacoma, Wash., Aug. 25.—The shorter workday movement has reached local butcher shops, which will hereafter close at 7 o'clock on Saturday nights, instead of 9 o'clock.

"LOYALTY" LEAGUES RAMPANT IN ARIZONA

Washington, Aug. 25.—John Murray, of the Typographical union, and Richard G. Rigg, of the Globe (Ariz.) Miners' union, are in Washington as representatives of the Arizona state federation of labor to acquaint the American Federation of Labor with the work of Arizona "Loyalty" leagues, which are running rampant in that state and overthrowing all semblance of law.

Following the deportation of over 1,000 workers from Bisbee, on July 12, last, the Arizona state federation of labor, at its annual convention at Clifton, appointed a committee of five to go to Bisbee and report on conditions. The committee carried credentials from the governor of the state. When the committee arrived at Bisbee it was met by a band of armed vigilantes in five automobiles who stopped the unionists in full view of a regiment of federal troops and commanded them to "get out of Bisbee." The committee returned to Clifton and the convention assigned Murray and Rigg to go to Washington, after declaring against I. W. W. tactics, but demanding the protection of the law for every citizen. Every Arizona official, from the governor down, has acknowledged that the stand of the unionists is correct, but refuse to do anything.

The Bisbee strike started a short time prior to July 12. The men demanded safety conditions, higher wages, and protection against a blacklist which operates through physical examination. The men were put on trains and deported to Columbus, N. M. A large percentage has no affiliation with the I. W. W. Bisbee is under armed guards to stop them from returning. The guards are members of a so-called "Loyalty" league, financed by the copper interests. Every worker must join the league or lose his job.

The league gives permits to work and has branches in almost every town and city in the state where there is a mine. Its officers are mine managers and bosses.

The Phelps-Dodge corporation, acknowledged to be in the control of Standard oil interests, dominates Arizona and extends from Sonora, Mexico, through Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado into one vast copper mine combination.

At Globe, Arizona, recently 42 members of the Miners' union were picketing on the county road and were arrested for "rioting" by members of the "Loyalty" league. Among these were all the officers of the union, except Recording Secretary Rigg, who is now in Washington. These men are under $1,000 bail. Their trials are in September and they expect to be railroaded to the penitentiary unless the labor movement comes to their protection. The Arizona committee now in this city says the plan of the Phelps-Dodge corporation is to jail the most active trade unionists and then blacklist them on the ground that they are "criminals."

LINES TIGHTEN ON DRAFT.

Washington, Aug. 25.—Provost Marshal General Crowder has ruled that persons who fail to appear for their physical examination under the draft law lose their right to be examined and are accepted without such examination. If they do not then appear on notice from the board they will become subject to the military authorities and will be treated as deserters.

The department of justice issues this statement on General Crowder's note:

"Where persons are known to be willfully refusing to comply with the requests of the local boards and are so conducting themselves as to be a menace to the proper enforcement of the conscription act, and their whereabouts are known, they should be detained in jail on complaint charging violations of section 6 of the conscription act until the time when they are ordered by the adjutant general to report for duty in the national army. They should, at that date, be turned over to the military authorities. No prosecution need be had as it will be unnecessarily expensive and little is to be gained therefrom."

MACHINISTS GAIN.

Utica, N. Y., Aug. 25.—An organizing campaign at the Savage arms corporation resulted in 2,000 machinists joining the union of this craft. Under these circumstances the corporation signed a one-year agreement, which provides for the eight-hour day, recognition of committees and a 10 per cent wage increase on day work and piece work prices.

Louisville, Ky., Aug. 25.—Machinists employed by the Kentucky and Indiana Terminal railroad have secured an agreement and increased wages 2 cents an hour.

Granite City, Ill., Aug. 25.—Organized machinists employed by the Commonwealth Steel company have won their strike for higher wages. New rates will be $2.50 and $4.

CAR SHORTAGE REDUCED.

Washington, Aug. 25.—The railroads' war board, a sub-committee of the council of national defense, announces that the freight car shortage has been reduced to 33,776 cars, or one-fourth of what it was on May 1. It is stated that this result has been accomplished by organization at a time when the railroads are supplying from 15 to 20 per cent more freight service with the same number of cars than was being given this time last year.

HUGE OUTPUT OF IRON ORE.

Washington, Aug. 25.—All records for iron ore production in the United States were broken in 1916, when the output reached a total of 75,167,672 gross tons, valued at approximately $180,000,000, according to figures issued by the federal geological survey. This was an increase of 19,600,000 gross tons and of 80 per cent in value over 1915. Minnesota, Michigan and Alabama, as usual, were the greatest producers.

SHOP MEN RAISE WAGES.

Middletown, N. Y., Aug. 25.—Committees representing federated shop men employed on the New York, Ontario and Western railroad have signed a six-months' agreement and raised rates 4 cents an hour. The company wanted a longer agreement but the workers refused.

R. R. DIVIDENDS HIGH.

New York, Aug. 25.—Directors of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad have declared an extra dividend of 10 per cent in addition to the regular dividend of 18 per cent declared some time ago.

GRAIN HANDLERS GAIN.

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 25.—Grain Elevator Employes' union, affiliated with the A. F. of L., has raised wages 2 1-2 cents an hour.